

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, Applicant adds new claim 21, so claims 1, 4-7, 10-11, 14-16, and 19-21 are all the claims currently pending in the application. Support for claim 21 can be found at, e.g., page 11 in the specification.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that a multi-branched polysaccharide greatly differs from a linear polysaccharide in that it does not increase the viscosity of a cosmetic even if it is added in a large amount. For this reason, new claim 21 is directed to an embodiment of significance wherein the multi-branched polysaccharides show preferable effects.

Moreover, with respect to the claims overall, Applicants submit that multi-branched polysaccharides are completely different from linear polysaccharides in terms of structure and physical properties, and are not used in a field where linear polysaccharides are applied.

Further, Applicants submit that the Office seems to misunderstand that it is typical to increase the viscosity in preparing cosmetics, but Applicants submit that such is not the case.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over the cited art combinations, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)  
U.S. Application No.: 10/594,839

Attorney Docket No.: Q80934

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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